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Chronology of the 10th
Michigan Cavalry regiment

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Chronology of the 10th Michigan Cavalry Regiment

(1863-1865)

Compiled by William R Kinney

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A Chronology of the 10th Michigan Cavalry Regiment

Truman W Hemenway joined the 10th Michigan Cavalry sometime in the summer or fall of 1863. It appears he served in the 10th throughout the period of its Muster into Federal Service during the Civil War (18 Nov 1863 to 11 Nov 1865) He was discharged from Company H when it was disbanded in the late fall of 1865.

There appears to be a question about his age when he joined. According to his Death Certificate, he died on 16 Apr 1918, at the age of 70 Years, 6 Months, and 28 days; also that he was born in Antrim Twp. That fact would place his birth as 18 Sep 1847 (no brith record was found in Shiawassee Co. Clerk records). In the fall of 1863, when he joined the 10th, he would have been 16 years old on 18 Sep 1863, if the Death Certificate was correct. The Army service records indicate he was born in 1846.

His older brother Gilbert Hemenway served in the 4th Michigan Cavalry.

The following account of the 10th Michigan Cavalry was found in "MICHIGAN IN THE WAR" compiled by Jno. Robertson, Adjutant General. revised edition, printed in 1882, by W.S. George & Co., State Printers & Binders, Lansing MI. Much of the history is made up of narative by the Commanding Officer. The quotes from Luther S Trowbridge have been taken ver batum, with minor punctuative editing.

10th MICHIGAN CAVALRY REGIMENT

"Then for the battle,
The mad charging battle,
The cannon's fierce rattle,
The victor's wild cheers."

The rendezvous of the 10th cavalry was at Grand Rapids. The Regiment was raised under the direction of Colonel Thaddeus Foote, of the 6th Michigan Cavalry. Its recruitment commenced Jul 4th 1863, and it was mustered into service of the United States on the 18th of November following, having on the rolls 912 officers and men.

FIELD AND STAFF

Colonel Thaddeus Foot, Grand Rapids. Lieutenant Colonel Luther S Trowbridge, Detroit. Major Israel C Smith, Grand Rapids. Major Cicero Newel, Ypsilanti. Major Wesley Armstrong, Lapeer. Surgeon David C Spaulding, Lyons. Assistant Surgeon Charles W Leonard, Newaygo. Assistant Surgeon William D Scott, Greenville. Adjuant Charles R Sears, Lyons. Quartermaster Oliver N. Taylor, Grand Rapids. Commissary Don A. Dodge, Grand Rapids. Chaplain Henry Cherry, Owosso.

The Companies as mustered were as follows:

Company A. Captain John H. Standish, Brooks. First Lieutenant Henry W. Sears, Muskegon. Second Lieutenant Wallace W. Dickinson, Newaygo.
Company B. Captain Roderick L Bryan, Franklin. First Lieutenant Adam R Insley, Muir. Second Lieutenant Samuel T Bryan Jr., Franklin.
Company C. Captain Benjamin K Weatherwax, Grand Rapids. First Lieutenant Stephen V Thomas, Elba. Second Lieutenant Lord W Hinman, Elba.
Company D. Captain Archibald Stevenson, Bay City. First Lieu-

tenant Frederick N Field, Grand Rapids. Second Lieutenant William H Dunn, Ganges.
Company E. Captain Harvey E Light, Eureka. First Lieutenant Edwin J Brooks, Leelanaw. Second Lieutenant Robert G Barr, Grand Rapids.
Company F. Captain Chauncey F Sheppard, Owosso. First Lieutenant William E Cummings, Corunna. Second Lieutenant Myron E Converse, Corunna.
Company G. Captain James B Roberts, Ionia. First Lieutenant Ambrose L Soule, Lyons. Second Lieutenant George W French, Lyons.
Company H. Captain Peter N Cook, Antrim. First Lieutenant Edgar Byerly, Owosso. Second Lieutenant John Q A Cook, Antrim.
Company I. Captain Amos T Ayers, Bingham. First Lieutenant Enos B Bailey, Bingham. Second Lieutenant George M Farnham, St. Johns.
Company K. Captain Andrew J Itsell, Marian. First Lieutenant William T Merritt, Eaton. Second Lieutenant William Yerringham, Muir.
Company L. Captain Elliot F Covell, Grand Rapids. First Lieutenant James H Cummins, Holly. Second Lieutenant Edwin A Botsford, Fenton.
Company M. Captain James L Smith, Plainfield. First Lieutenant B Franklin Sherman, Grand Rapids. Second Lieutenant Jeremiah W Boynton, Grand Rapids.

DEPLOYMENT

The regiment left its rendezvous December 1, 1863, in command of Colonel Foote, under orders to proceed to the field in Kentucky via Cincinnati to Lexington, KY. It remained until January 25, 1864. Then the regiment moved to Burnside Point, KY having engaged the enemy at House Mountain TN.

The 10th remained at Burnside Point from the 2nd to the 25th of February, 1864, when it marched for Knoxville, East Tennessee. It reached Knoxville on the 6th of March, and then on the 16th of

March moved to Morristown via Strawberry Plains. On March 26th, it made a reconnaissance with a brigade of infantry to Bean's Station, and had a slight skirmish with the enemy.
On the 26th of April, the regiment moved from that location under orders from General J D Cox. He commanded the 3rd Division, 23rd Army Corps. His orders were to destroy a railroad bridge over the Watauga river at Carter's Station. They skirmished with the enemy at Rheatown on the 24th of April, then at Jonesboro and Johnsonville on the 25th. They reached Carter's Station on that day. The regiment was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Trowbridge. They joined with the 3rd Indiana Cavalry and were supported by Manson's brigade of Cox's division, which had marched up as far as Jonesboro, twelve miles from Carter's Station. The enemy was discovered in strong force and in a well fortified position, and the assault was at once commenced.
The Bridge was defended by the rebel General A E Jackson, called "Mudwall Jackson". He had a strong force occupying a strong redoubt, with extensive and well constructed rifle-pits. The Union force had one mountain howitzer, commanded by Lieutenant E J Brooks. However, owing to a very limited amount of ammunition, he was unable to accomplish much, yet he made some remarkable telling shots. It was soon ascertained that there was no possible way of reaching the bridge without first dislodging the enemy from their strong position. This had to be accomplished at much risk by passing over open ground for a distance of two hundred yards. There, they would be swept by a very sharp and hot cross-fire from the opposite side of the river. This being the first heavy undertaking of the regiment, Colonel Trowbridge felt unwilling to retire without accomplishing something. He felt it would produce an unfavorable effect upon his command. He therefore decided to make an attempt, dismounting about one-third of his men. With this small force, he ordered an advance upon the enemy's position at double quick time. This approach apparently suprised the rebels, they gave way in great disorder, leaving their works and taking shelter in a large mill nearby . Major Israel C Smith was the first man to enter the redoubt, and Captain Benjamin K Weatherwax the second. As soon as the redoubt was gained, an attempt was made to

drive the enemy out of the mill. but the charging force was met with such a terrible and destructive volley that this idea had to be abandoned. In this daring and gallant attempt. Captain Weatherwax lost his life, being shot through the heart. Colonel Trowbridge. in a special report of the affair. says of him: "Thus was lost to us one of the gallant and worthy officers whom I have ever met. Full of noble and generous sympathy. the loftiest patriotism, with that courage which knows no fear. his loss was most deeply felt by the entire regiment." The fight was considered a brilliant success. though obtained at a loss of seventeen killed and wounded. It must be recognized as an uncommon victory, considering it was gained by dismounted cavalry. The men were new and undisciplined, against a more superior force of well trained infantry holding strong defensive positions. They had. in addition, to meet a most galling cross-fire from the enemy. Therefore, rendering the success uncommon at that stage of the rebellion. That battle should be classed among the most gallant minor victories of the war.

For the gallant charge on the enemy's works, the 10th was highly complemented by General Schofeld. The loss in the whole command was 1 officer and 2 men killed. 16 wounded, and 4 missing. Of this the 10th lost 1 officer, and 2 men killed, 8 wounded, and 3 missing.

The regiment was also engaged at Power Spring Gap on April 28th 1864; and at Dandridge on May 19th. On the 28th, a reconnaissance was made from Strawberry Plains by one hundred and sixty men of the regiment. The next day they reached Bull's Gap, and the following day they reached Greenville. At 2:30 PM., the enemy was encountered, one hundred strong. A brisk fight ensued, the rebels losing 24 killed, 14 wounded, 38 horses and mules captured, and 26 prisoners and 17 negroes. The 10th then returned on the 31st to Strawberry Plains.
In June, the 10th regiment met the enemy in skirmishes at Morristown on the 2nd, and at Bean's Station on the 16th. They fought at Rogersville on the 17th, Kingsport on the 18th, Candy Branch on the 20th, and at New Market on the 21th. They met the

enemy again at Mooresburg on the 23rd, William's Ford on the 25th, and on the 28th at Dutch Bottom.

Colonel Trowbridge in a report wrote: "I was ordered to go up near the Virginia line to capture a large number of horses that were said to be in pasture. It was not expected that I would meet the enemy before I reached Kingsport, but unfortunately for the success of our enterprise, I met them at Bean's Station. I at once ordered Captain Roberts, with 2 companies, to charge them. One of the companies was commanded by a Lieutenant, afterwards by Captain Brooks. Brooks was smarting under some ill treatment from a superior officer, and immediately dashed forward with his company. After routing the rebels handsomely and charging them for a couple of miles, Captain Roberts wisely ordered a halt; but Brooks had gone ahead with a few men and actually kept up the charge, with 3 men with him, for a distance of ten miles and a half. Captain Brooks was afterwards rewarded for his gallantry by the brevets of Major and Lieutenant Colonel."

During the month of July and the early part of August, a detachment of the regiment were constantly engaging in scouting and pursuing small bands of the enemy in East Tennessee. They meeting the emeny at Sevierville July 5th, and at Newport July 8th. On the 4th of August they fought at Greenville, and at Morristown on August 5th.

On the 17th of August, the 10th was ordered to report for temporary duty to Brigadier General Gillem, commanding the East Tennessee expedition. On the 18th they left Strawberry Plains under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Trowbridge. They were three hundred and twenty five strong, with three companies (D, F, and I) remaining at Knoxville. Proceeding on the march, skirmishes with the enemy occurred at Mossy Creek on the 18th, and at Bull's Gap on the 21th. On the 23rd, Giltner's rebel brigade was met at Blue Springs, where a sharp fight took place. The enemy was dislodged from a strong position and pursued for seven miles. They were driven in great confusion through Greenville. In that

engagement, the 10th lost 6 men wounded, 2 of whom died of their wounds.

After moveing through Rogersville, Bean's Station, and Bull's Gap, the regiment returned on August 31st to Strawberry Plains.

While the main body of the 10th was absent, the convalescents, and special duty men of the regiment, in command of Captain J H Standish, numbered about 125 men. They were in garrison at Strawberry Plains with some 150 from other commands. They were attacked on August 24th by a rebel cavalry corps under General Wheeler, numbering some 6000 to 8000 men, with nine pieces of artillery. The Union troops made a successful defense against this force, and thus saved the post from capture and the great railroad from destruction.

During the attack, seven of Standish's men, by hard fighting held McMillan's Ford, on the Holston river, for three and a half hours against a brigade of rebel cavalry. They killed forty or fifty of them, but were finally surrounded and captured.

Colonel Trowbridge furnished the following incident connected with the repulse of Wheeler at Strawberry Plains, on August 24th: "Eight men were sent to guard McMillain's Ford, on the Holston; one of them went off on his own hook, so that seven were left. One of them was a large, powerful fellow, the farrier of company B, by the name of Alexander H Griggs. He came from Greenfield, in Wayne County, Michigan. These seven men actually kept back a rebel brigade from crossing that ford for three and one half hours by desperate fighting, killing forty or fifty. The rebels, by swimming the river above and below the ford eventually succeeded in capturing the whole party. During the fight, this big farrier was badly wounded in the shoulder. General Wheeler was very impressed with the valor of these men, and at once paroled a man to stay and take care of this wounded man. Approaching the wounded farrier, the following dialog is said to have taken place: Gen. Wheeler: 'Well, my man, how many men had you at the ford?'

Griggs: 'Seven, sir'. Gen. Wheeler: 'My poor fellow, don't you know that you are badly wounded? You might as well tell me the truth; you may not live long'. Griggs: (indignantly) 'I am telling the truth, sir. We had only seven' Gen. Wheeler: (laughing) 'Well, what did you expect to do'? Griggs: 'To keep you from crossing, sir'. Gen. Wheeler: (greatly amused and laughing) 'Well, why didn't you do it'? Griggs: 'Why, you see, sir, we did until you hit me, and that weakened our forces so much that you were too much for us'. Wheeler was greatly amused, and inquired of another prisoner,(who happened to be a horse farrier too) 'Are all the 10th Michigan like you fellows'? 'Oh, no!' said the man. 'We are the poorest of the lot. We are mostly horse farriers and blacksmiths, and not much accustomed to fighting.' 'Well,' said Wheeler, 'If I had 300 such men as you I could march straight through to hell! ' "

On the same day, Major Smith of the 10th, was sent out from Knoxville with 72 men, all the mounted force that could be mustered, to scout in the direction of Strawberry Plains and ascertain the position of the enemy. With the true spirit of a cavalryman, he ordered his advance guard to charge the first party of rebels they should see. They discovered the enemy two and one half miles from Flat Creek Bridge, and according to orders, charged them in gallant style. Smith followed up with rest of his command. The enemy proved to be the 8th Texas Cavalry, 400 strong. Smith routed them completely, capturing their commanding officer, a Lieutenant colonel, and thirty or forty prisoners. He was hotly pursuing them at a full gallop, when he came to Flat Creek Bridge- a long, high and narrow bridge. Over which Smith charged, to find himself confronted by Hume's division of rebel cavalry, 2000 strong. They were drawn up in a line of battle, scarcely 300 yards from the bridge. Of course he had to turn quickly & get away, which he succeeded in doing without any great loss, though the enemy chased him for seven miles. The boldness of this act annoyed the rebels severely, and they ever after entertained a wholesome respect of the 10th Michigan Cavalry.

The 10th regiment, in command of Colonel Trowbridge, was

stationed at Strawberry Plains, from September 1, 1864. They were engaged in fortifying that point, in the usual routine of camp duty and occasional scouting. On the 4th, it participated in surprising and routing Morgan's forces. Morgan, with a force of about 7000 men, made up of nine pieces of artillery, two regiments of infantry, and his entire cavalry force were encamped along the Greenville road in East Tennessee. The 10th Michigan Cavalry then in command of Major Newell, encamped near Bull's Gap, was ordered by General Gillam to attack the enemy's camp. Marching all night, he dismounted his men at daylight and charged into Morgan's first camp, driving the enemy in hot haste, leaving their breakfast half cooked, along with their dead and wounded. Reaching the second camp, the enemy was found in be in better condition. General Gillam came up with the 9th Tennessee Cavalry (Colonel Brownlow), and ordered that regiment to charge with sabers, but a sharp fire from the enemy drove the regiment back. The 13th Tennessee Cavalry (Colonel Miller) came up, to help stop the enemy driving the 9th in retreat , with a large cavalry force of at least 1000 strong, filling the road from fence to fence. When the rebels met the 10th Michigan, our boys opened fire at about half pistol range with carbines, and soon the road was blocked with dead and wounded men and horses. The enemy, confused, hastily fell back, was pursued to the woods, but were shelled out by cannon fire, so they pushed on toward Greenville; again they were charged on by Union Cavalry, but this time they became demoralized, so they broke up and fled. Morgan and his staff were discovered under the shelter of a house; a company of the 13th Tennessee was sent to capture him. Morgan rushed for his horse, but was shot in the attempt by a sergeant of one of the 13th's company. One hundred prisoners, including Morgan's staff and six pieces of artillery were captured.

During the month of September the 10th was constantly engaged in pursuing the remaining forces of Morgan and Wheeler. There were skirmishes at Sweet Water and Thorn Hill on the 1st,and on the 18th at Sevierville. On the 30th the regiment assisted in driving the enemy from their positions at Carter's Station.

In October and November, the 10th was employed on picket duty and scouting, they encountered the enemy at Johnson's Station on the 1st, Watauga Bridge on the 1st and 2sd, and Chucky Bend on the 10th. The then met at Newport on the 18th, Irish Bottoms on the 25th and on the 30th at Madisonville.

On the 16th of November General Breckenridge, with a large rebel force, made his appearance in front of the garrison at Strawberry Plains, and on the 17th commenced a vigorous attack with artillery from the opposite side of the Holston river. At the same time, threatening it from the rear with a heavy cavalry Force. Colonel Throwbridge, then commanding the troops in that vicinity, in a statement made since the war regarding the Breckenridge campaign in East Tennessee said: "In the fall of 1864, when Sherman, was breaking loose from all his communications, had started on that great march to the sea, which was to crown him with immortal glory. His adversary General Hood, thinking to take advantage of that movement of Sherman, attempted by a counter move to carry the theater of war to the Ohio river, General Breckenridge, was to make a diversion in Hood's favor, moved into East Tennessee with a considerable force of cavalry, infantry and artillery. As we were accustomed to large armies this force did not seem large, but it was a larger army than that with which some of the decisive battles of the revolution were gained. It war larger than the army with which General Taylor fought the battle of Buena Vista. Taylor's infantry and artillery were under the command of a former citizen of Michigan with whom I was acquainted, General John B Palmer, formerly of Detroit. His cavalry was commanded by that brave and skillful soldier, General Basil Duke. This movement was perhaps more imposing and threatening in appearance than in fact. There is no doubt it created some apprehensions at General Thomas's headquarters. General Stoneman at Louisville was directed to send at once to East Tennessee all the mounted men he could raise, while General Steedman at Chattanooga was ordered to send all the men he could spare to Knoxville. General Ammon was in command of the

district of East Tennessee with headquarters at Knoxville, with General Tillison in command of the fortifications at Knoxville and all outposts, of which that at Strawberry Plains was one. None of the reinforcements ordered reached East Tennessee in time to be of any real service. Outside of the garrison at Knoxville of the troops available to meet the advancing army of Breckenridge, was a independent brigade of Tennessee Cavalry, three regiments, numbering 2000 men, and a small command at Strawberry Plains made up from different commands, a small portion of the 10th Michigan Cavalry, a battalion of Kentucky Cavalry, a section of artillery in the forts which our unwilling hands had constructed, but which we found to be very handy to have in case of emergency, and some scouts, hundred-day men, etc., numbering all told about 350 men. Gillem, with his brigade, was posted at Bull's Gap, about 40 miles above Strawberry Plains. It was a position of no consequence, as it protected nothing and could be turned with the greatest of ease. Gillem, however, for some reason not apparent to ordinary mortals, determined to hold that position, and only withdrew when he found his flank turned, and his line of retreat in danger of being cut off. While retiring from that position, he was vigorously attacked by Duke and his command routed. There soon followed a stampede which was almost unsurpassed by anything in the history of the war. Colonel Kirk, with 100 North Carolina troops, and Major Smith of the 10th Michigan cavalry, with 100 men of that regiment and 100 of the 1st Ohio heavy artillery, had been sent up by railway to Morristown to reinforce Gillem. They formed their men on either side of the road and sent back the train that had brought them. They had scarcely taken their positions when on came the demoralized troops of Gillem, in the full tide of disgraceful retreat. Then came the exultant enemy, intoxicated with their success, taking prisoners at almost every step. They came crowding on, flushed with the full excitement of successful pursuit. It was a clear moonlight night. On a rise of ground a little out of Morristown, behind a fence, were the veterans of the 10th. On came the exulting enemy. When a few rods from the fence there rang out from that dark line, 'Halt! who come there? 'Johnny rebs!' was the quick response. Then came the sharp quick tones of

Smith's voice, 'Ready, aim fire!' and from the line of that fence there leaped forth a blinding sheet of flame, carrying with it death and destruction to many a brave man. The enemy dazed and stunned, stopped and reeled for a moment, then turned and fled in wildest confusion. Oh! then for a single squadron to follow up that volley with the charge, and the pursuit would have turned to a rout. But no, it was not to be. There were no squadron to make the charge. Demoralization had so far taken possession of Gillem's troops that they could not be rallied. Gillem himself with two or three officers and about twenty men, had abandoned his command, and had taken a by-road through the woods and started for Knoxville. Smith and Kirk, finding themselves entirely unsupported, quietly withdrew their commands to the woods and made their way back, Smith to Strawberry Plains, and Kirk to Knoxville. Gillem lost his wagon train, a fine battery of Parrot guns, and nearly one-forth of his command was taken prisoners, while the balance of the command was so demoralized as to be of no account for any further movement of that command. Let no one charge the responsibility of this shameful disaster upon the rank and file of the regimental or company officers of the Tennessee troops. Let no one say, either that it was due to a want of cooperation of the part of other officers. Let the responsibility rest where it belongs-on the chief officer in command. Had he handled his troops steadily and properly, a stampede would have been impossible."

"There was at Strawberry Plains an entrenched camp, the defenses of which had been constructed by the 10th Michigan Cavalry. The position was an admirable one, and the defenses well made. A force sufficient to man the entire line could have maintained itself against many times its own number. In fact, although the force there was quite inadequate to man the whole line, and although many of them were indifferently armed and disciplined, yet I think there was no feeling of uneasiness at the approach of Breckenridge with his largely outnumbering force. The disaster to Gillem's command occurred on the night of November 13th, 1864. On the next day, some of the scattered fragments of his command arrived at Strawberry Plains and went into bivouac in the rear of our

entrenched camp, a place nearly as safe, we thought, as behind the fortifications at Knoxville. Had they gone to work to reorganize and dispel from their minds the demoralizing events of previous night, they might have made themselves of great service behind our entrenchment. But that was not to be. About midnight, someone reported that the enemy was crossing the river at McKinney's Ford to get upon our rear. Thereupon these poor demoralized fellows, saddled and bridled in hot haste and started for Knoxville, leaving the ground strewn with sabers, pistols, and carbines, from which others found it convenient to replenish their supplies. On the morning of the 15th Major I. S. Smith arrived with his command, giving more particulars of the stampede. The telegraph being in operation, I telegraphed General Tillson if he deemed it important to hold that post. I thought it would be well to send reinforcements, and on the 16th, 350 men of the 2nd Ohio Artillery arrived. A scouting party sent out during the day reported the enemy advancing in heavy force, and it was reported that he was also crossing the river to get in our rear. That night the men all slept in the trenches, leaving their comfortable quarters deserted, as it was thought an attack would be made early in the morning. There was really nothing to be feared from the attack from the other side of the river. Some of the planks had been taken up on the bridge, and it was so covered by our guns as to make a crossing impossible, except at an immense loss of life. It was only from the rear that danger was to be feared. Accordingly, a scout was sent out during the night of the 16th to ascertain how the enemy had approached. On the morning of the 17th, as day was breaking, the enemy opened with artillery from College Hill. An hour before I had been told to expect this, by Major Newell, who had heard the rumbling of their artillery during the night. I had therefore sent word to Captain Wood, at the fort, to look out for them and return complements without delay. He replied to their morning salutation without any hesitation, warning them to be careful how they exposed themselves. Then followed an interesting and somewhat exciting artillery duel for some time. In the midst of it, my scouting party returned and reported the enemy on our side of the river in strong force, and not far away. I at once threw out a heavy skirmish line a

half mile or so from the camp, and soon the business of the day began. The fighting was sharp and constant during the day, until late in the afternoon, when the enemy retired up the river on our side, and the infantry and artillery on the other side drew back beyond the reach of our guns. The enemy continued in our immediate front on the other side of the river until the 21th, when they commenced falling back and Major Newell crossed the river and drove the last ones from College Hill. There had been skirmishes every day, but nothing serious after the 17th. Breckenrigde was stopped at Strawberry Plains by a force less than one sixth of his own number. He came no nearer Knoxville than that, which is about 16 Miles. General Ammon had his headquarters at Knoxville, but whether he was there at that time I do not know. I certainly had no communication from him regarding the fight, and I certainly have no reason to suppose that he knew anything more about it than General Thomas, who was in Nashville. You may judge of our surprise then at seeing in the telegraphic reports that General Ammon had repulsed Breckenridge at Strawberry Plains after a stubborn fight! My surprise, however is still greater to find in Van Horn's history of the Army of the Cumberland the statement that Breckenridge closely followed Gillem to the vicinity of Knoxville, and that he withdrew from the vicinity of Knoxville on the 18th, and that General Ammen, reinforced by 1500 men from Chattanooga, reoccupied Strawberry Plains the same day. I suppose however that Van Horn took his statements from General Thomas's reports, in which he says: 'Following up his success, Breckenridge continued moving southwest, through Strawberry Plains to the immediate vicinity of Knoxville, but on the 18th withdrew as rapidly as he had advanced. General Ammon's troops, reinforced by 1500 men from Chattanooga, reoccupied Strawberry Plains on that day."

During the remaining portion of the month, and up to December 6th, 1864, the 10th regiment was employed in constructing fortifications at Strawberry Plains, when on receipt of orders, it marched to Knoxville. Soon after, a detachment under command of Captain James B. Roberts joined an expedition to Saltville, VA, and helped

to destroy the salt works at that point, being engaged with the enemy at Kingsport, December 12th; at Bristol, December14th; and at Saltville, December 20th. Returning to Knoxville it had a skirmish at Chucky Bend on January 10th 1865. Remaining at Knoxville until March 21th, the brigade to which it was attached marched to Upper East Tennessee under command of Brevet Brigadier General Palmer.

Joining the expedition of General Stoneman into North Carolina, the regiment commanded by Colonel Trowbridge, who had re-signed his appointment as Provost Marshall General of East Tennessee, in order to take command of his regiment, entered upon that campaign. Colonel Trowbridge gives the following sketch, made since the war: " I doubt whether there was any enterprise during the war of so great magnitude, and which accomplished so great results and received so little attention, as the Stoneman raid of 1865. The reasons for this were manifest enough. There were so many other things of greater moment transpiring at that time that the thoughts of the people were fixed elsewhere. Wilson, with his magnificent arm of cavalry, was sweeping down through Alabama, accomplishing what seemed to be miracles of valor, carrying by storm points which seemed sufficient to maintain the staunchest defense, and sending dismay and despair thorough all that portion of the Confederacy. Canby and Farragut were knocking down the gates of Mobile; Sherman, with the stride of a giant, was marching through the Carolinas with his great army, fresh from the march to the sea; while Grant with tireless and neverceasing tenacity, was tightening his hold on Richmond, preparing for those final blows which were to shiver the Confederacy to pieces. What wonder that the eyes of the people were directed to these great movements, and that few thought of the movements of a small division of cavalry, starting from East Tennessee, and destined to accomplish a service which in certain contingencies would have been of the greatest importance in the great tragedy of war then drawing to a close?"

"In the spring of 1865 General Grant, anticipating that Lee should be forced out of Richmond he might undertake to move through

southwestern Virginia, and driving our forces of East Tennessee, strive to establish himself in some of the many strong positions which that mountainous country afforded, directed General Thomas to send a force to destroy the railways, so far as possible, toward Lynchburg, thus putting a great obstacle in the way of the movement supposed to be contemplated by General Lee. The expedition, consisting of 3 brigades of cavalry, under the command of General Stoneman, was concentrated at Mossy Creek, March 22sd. On the 25th of March, ten miles west of Jonesboro, everything that could retard a rapid march was left behind, one ambulance, one wagon, and four guns, with their caissons, being the only vehicles accompanying the expedition. The object of this expedition was kept a profound secret, and much speculation was indulged in as to the direction we were to take. By the movement of one brigade to Carter's Station, the idea was conveyed to the enemy that we were going directly into Virginia. But by a rapid movement the command crossed the Watauga river farther up and struck directly across the mountains toward North Carolina. On the 27th we reached Boone, a little town up in the mountains. At this place Major Keogh, of General Stoneman's staff, afterwards slain by the Indians in the Custer massacre, with a detachment of the 12th Kentucky cavalry, routed a company of home guards, and capturing sixty. Here the brigades separated, General Stoneman, with Palmer's brigade moving on to Wilkesboro by Deep Gap, while the other two brigades, with the artillery, moved to the same point by the Flat Gap road. At this point the command halted for a day, partly for rest, partly because a sudden rise in the Yadkin river had placed it beyond fording; but more, I fancy to give full effect to the sudden appearance of so large a body of cavalry in that portion of North Carolina, threatening Greensboro and Salisbury. The strategy was well planned and effective. The enemy was entirely deceived as to our point of attack. By a rapid march to the north, General Stoneman found the railways running from Lynchburg to East Tennessee entirely at his mercy. At Hillsville, Colonel Miller, with 500 picked men, was sent to Wytheville, where he destroyed a depot of supplies, and on his march two important railway bridges. At Jacksonville, Major Wagner of the

15th Pennsylvania cavalry, was dispatched to Salem, where he began the work of destruction and carried it on to within a few miles of Lynchburg. The balance of the command moved on to Christiansburg, where it arrived about midnight April 4th. The 1th Michigan cavalry was at once sent to the east to destroy the bridges over the Roanoake river, and the 11th Michigan cavalry to the west to estroy the great bridge over New river. The next morning those bridges were effectively destroyed. The 10th destroyed six large beautiful bridges over the Roanoke river, a destruction which would have been avoided could the events of the next ten days have been forseen. It was while engaged in the destruction of these bridges that I obtained a Lynchburg paper of the preceding day, giving an account of the fall of Richmond. The train which brought the paper had heard of our approach and had gone no further than the station where we were at work. I at once sent the paper by the fleetest horse to be found in the regiment to General Stoneman at Christiansburg and was thus fortunate in giving him the first information that he had of the fall of Richmond."

"The main object of the expedition was accomplished. For a distance of 125 miles that railway so important to General Lee in case of his escape from Grant was in ruins. Nearly every bridge and trestle for that distance had been totally destroyed or entirely disabled. Well might General Thomas say ' A railroad was never more thoroughly dismantled than was the East Tennessee and Virginia from Wytherville to near Lynchburg."

"After a short rest we were ordered to move by Rocky mount to Martinsville, and there await the arrival of the balance of the brigade. Our time was short and we made the distance of 75 miles in 27 hours to find the place occupied by Colonel Wheeler's rebel cavalry, where we were to await the brigade. Under the circumstances we could not well remain there with that party in the town. and therefore to their great astonishment we insisted on their going. They did not seem inclined to go and we had a dispute about it, in which we sustained severe loss in the death of Lieutenant Kenyon and four men, and the wounding of Lieutenant Field

and three men, the loss of the enemy being reported at 28 killed and mortally wounded. Colonel Wheeler then did as we desired and retired and we remained until the next morning."

"This movement to Martinsville and the short fight there had a meaning and a significance which we did not then fully appreciate. By it, the enemy was made to believe that Greensboro was our objective. Consequently rebel troops were withdrawn from Salisbury and rapidly sent to the threatened point. The enemy saw their mistake when a few days later Stoneman appeared before Salisbury instead of Greensboro."

"The brigade was later reunited at Martinsville: from there we moved to Danbury and Germantown from which places Palmer's brigade was sent to Salem to destroy some large factories engaged in manufacturing of clothing for the rebel army, and then to operate on the railway running from Greensboro to Salisbury. Meanwhile, Stoneman with the other two brigades crossed Shallow Ford and started directly for Salisbury. Upon arriving at Salem, General Palmer sent the 15th Pennsylvania cavalry to strike the railway between Greensboro and Danville, and the 10th Michigan cavalry to destroy some bridges over Abbot's Creek, between Greensboro and Salisbury. One battalion was sent to High Point to make a diversion in that direction, while he remained with the balance of the brigade at Salem. The 15th Pennsylvania met with marked success on its expedition. It broke the railway between Greensboro and Danville as directed, and on its route surprised a South Caro-- lina rebel regiment of cavalry, taking prisoners of its commanding officer and a large number of men. A battalion of the 10th Michigan was sent to High Point, there succeeded in capturing two railway trains, loaded with quartermaster, commissary and medical supplies, some large depots of supplies, and several thousand bales of confederate cotton. The value of the property destroyed by this detachment was estimated at more than 3 million dollars. The other two Battalions of the 10th, numbering not more than 300 men, proceeded to destroy the bridges over Abbot's creek, after accomplishing this they were to move directly to Salisbury to cooperate

with General Stoneman. After accomplishing the destruction of two more bridges, this little command suddenly came upon Furguson's brigade of rebel cavalry, numbering about 1200 men. I never found a time entirely convenient and comfortable for meeting on the road a force outnumbering my own four or five to one, but if there is any time more uncomfortable than another it is at the end of an all-night march, when men and horses are jaded and worn with fatigue, and weak for want of food and rest. The meeting was a mutual surprise. When first discerned the enemy was in camp, wholly ignorant of our approach. With fresh horses and a force anywhere nearly matching the enemy, it would not have been difficult to make a sudden attack with the chances of success largely in our favor. But with horses worn by almost continuos march of nearly twenty four hours, it seemed extremely hazardous to attack a force so largely outnumbering our, and that force fresh and rested with a comfortable night in camp. Then again, should we succeed in driving the enemy it would be directly toward Salisbury where they might augment the forces with which Stoneman was expected to be soon engaged. On the other hand, if they could be drawn after us, and away from Salisbury, it would add to the chances of Stoneman's success, which was far more important than anything else we could do. These considerations settled the matter, and it was decided to withdraw. No sooner was the movement commenced then we were attacked with great fury. Then followed on of the most spirited and exciting, and in my judgment one of the best fought of the minor engagements of the war. The 10th falling back by alternate squadrons, constantly presented an unbroken front to the enemy, wheeling out of column into line and steadily delivering their volleys from the Spenser carbines until the could see another squadron formed to receive the shock of the enemy, then wheeling into column and falling back to a new position. Officers and men without exception showed a courage, a coolness, and discipline unsurpassed, in my judgment, in the annals of the war. The movements were all conducted with as much precision as if the place had been but a parade ground and the exercise but the sham fighting of the drill. The enemy attempted to pass a column by each flank, while the attacks on our

rear were made with a daring and courage worthy of a better cause. The fighting was constant and fierce, without a moments interruption for nearly three hours, and extended over a space of about six miles, when the enemy became discouraged at his failure to surround the handful of men and ceased his pursuit. His loss in this engagement was afterwards ascertained to have been about 75 in killed and wounded, while ours was trifling."

"Major Dunn, (10th Michigan), in this action bore a most conspicuous and gallant part, for which he received the commission of Major by brevet from the Secretary of War."

"General Stoneman moved on to Salisbury. I need not go fully into details of that engagement for they can be found recorded in the histories. One incident is worth mentioning, as it illustrates the valor of Michigan troops."

"While General Stoneman went to capture Salisbury, NC, he met the enemy at a little stream a few miles from town. The stream had very high and precipitous banks and could not be forded. The only way to cross was by a narrow bridge, which was effectively commanded by the enemy's artillery. After trying for some time to get them out of their position with his artillery without success, Stoneman called to him Major Smith of the 10th Michigan, and said, 'Major, I want you to take twenty men armed with the Spenser carbines, and cross this creek and flank those fellows out there.' Smith took his twenty men and crossing the creek on a log out of sight of the enemy, steadily approached and fired a volley into their flank, when the whole force broke in the greatest confusion. Stacey, with his Tennessee cavalry, was on them in an instant, and the fight was over. Results: 19 pieces of artillery, 1,100 prisoners, and supplies enough for an army of 100,000 men. This exploit of Major Smith and his gallant little band was as daring as it proved successful."

"A few days later we learned of the surrender of Lee's army. For sum days we were occupied in paroling prisoners. Then came the

armistice, and we were ordered home. We had made one day's march into the mountains when we learned that the armistice had been disapproved in Washington, and we were ordered to South Carolina to lay waste the country so that no supplies could reach Johnston's army. Then came the surrender of Johnston."

"Then it was reported that Jefferson Davis, the late head of the defunct Confederacy, was trying to get away with a large amount of specie. We received the remarkable order to spare neither men nor horses, but to pursue him to the ends of the earth if necessary to insure his capture; and to obey no orders except those coming direct from the Secretary of War. The ex-President was then crossing our front, or had crossed it two days before, going toward the southwest with an escort of four brigades of cavalry, under the commands of Duke, Ferguson, and Dibrell, with scattered detachments of Vaughn's, Harris's, and Butler's commands, all of which had evaded the terms of the surrender of Johnson to Sherman. By a wide detour and rapid march we were thrown across the front of his line of march at Athens, GA. His escort did not relish any more fighting, and began rapidly to fall apart. It was reported that they were paid off with the specie which they were trying to get away with. I have with me a silver dollar obtained from one of his escort, and which I have carried for 16 years. I need not go into details of our work on the hunt for Mr. Davis. For a distance of 150 miles north and south our scouts were on every road running to the west. Every bridge, ford, or ferry was carefully watched and guarded, all of which resulted in the great good fortune of General Pritchard and his brave comrades in the 4th Michigan Cavalry. We acted in one sense as drivers of the game, while they were fortunate in getting on the runway. I cannot find it in my heart to envy the good fortune of such brave and gallant men, but I rejoice that, while we could not be so fortunate, it was still reserved for Michigan men to capture the distinguished leader of a bad cause, seeking to save himself by cowardly flight. Are you not amused at his boastful declaration that at the time of his capture his purpose was to rush on the mounted man, dismount him, seize his horse, and make his escape? Don't you wish he had tried it? It probably would have saved us a deal of trouble! He would have had no occasion to ask

anyone to go his bail. I suppose his skirts prevented him !"

"The capture was not known to us until someday after it was made. Our command was so scattered that it took a long time to communicate with headquarters, so that it was not until the 22sd of May that we received orders to return to Knoxville, and on the 25th of May the regiment reached a base of supplies at Guntersville, on the Tennessee river. "

"From March 25th to May 25th we had been living in the enemy's country, cut off from all bases of supplies, with no opportunity to hear from the loved ones at home and only one or two chances to send word of our welfare, and having marched, I suppose, not less than 1800 miles."

Upon returning to Tennessee after the Stoneman Raid and the pursuit of Jefferson Davis, the regiment was encamped at Lenoir Station and Sweetwater under the command of Major Standish, Coloned Trowbridge having won the honorable promotion of Brigadier and Major General by brevet, being in command of the brigade and for a short time the division.

In the later part of August, 1865, the 10th was ordered to West Tennessee where it served until November 11th, when it was mustered out of service at Memphis, and in Command of Coloned Smith returned to Michigan, arriving on the 15th at Jackson, where it was disbanded.

Engagements and skirmishes of the regiment were: At House Mountain, TN, in January of 1864; Bean's Gap,TN, 26 March 1864; Rheatown, TN 24 April 1864; Jonesboro, TN, 25 April 1864; Johnsonville, TN, 25 Apr 1864; Watauga, TN, 25 Apr 1864; Power Spring Gap, TN, 28 April 1864; Dandridge, TN, 30 may 1864; White Horn, TN, 31 May 1864; Morristown, TN, 2 Jun 1864; Bean's Station, TN 16 June 1864; Rogersville, TN, 17 June 1864; Kingsport, TN, 18 June 1864; Caney Branch, TN, 20 Jun

1864; New Market, TN, 21 June 1864; Moseburg, TN, 23 June 1864; Williams Ford, TN, 25 June 1864; Dutch Bottom, TN, 28 June 1864; Sevierville, TN, 5 July 1864; Newport, TN, 8 July 1864; Morristown, TN, 3 August 1864; Greenville, TN, 4 August 1864; Mossy Creek, TN, 18 August 1864; Bull's Gap, TN, 21 August 1864; Blue Springs, TN, 23 August 1864; Greenville TN, 23 Aug 1864; Strawberry Plains, TN, 24 August 1864; Flat Creek Bridge, TN, 24 August 1864; Robertsville, TN, 27 August 1864; Bull's Gap, TN, 29 August 1864; Greenville, TN, 4 September 1864; Sweetwater, TN, 10 September 1864; Thorn Hill, TN, 10 September 1864; Sevierville, TN, 8 Sept 1864; Jonesboro, TN, 30 September 1864; Johnson Station, TN, 1 October 1864; Watauga Bridge, TN, 1 & 2 October 1864; Chunky Bend, TN, 10 October 1864; Newport, TN, 18 October 1864; Irish Bottoms, TN, 25 October 1864; Madisonville, TN, 30 October 1864; Morristown, TN, 20 November 1864; Strawberry Plains, TN, 23 & 24 November 1864; Kingsport, TN, 12 December 1864; Bristol, TN, 14 December 1864; Saltville, VA 20 November 1864; Chuckey Bend, TN, 10 January 1865; Bradson's Mills, TN, 25 Mar 1865; Boonville, NC, 27 March 1865; Henry Court House, VA, 8 April 1985; Abbott Creek, NC, 10 April 1865; High Point, NC, 10 April 1865; Statesville, NC, 14 April 1865; Newton, NC, 17 April 1865. The membership of the 10th had been, while in service, 2050 officers & Men, and its losses 271. Killed in action, 2 officers and 18 men; died of wounds, 11 Men; and 240 died of disease.

"As on the field at break of day,
A vanquished chief expiring lay
Upon the sands with broken sword
He traces his farewell to the free;
And there the last unfinished word
He dying wrote was 'Liberty' "

Elba 2
Eureka 2
Farham, George M. 3
Farragut 15
Fenton 3
Ferguson's Brigade 21
Field, Frederick N. 2
Field, Lt. 17
Flat Creek Bridge 8,23
Flat Gap 16
Foote, Col. Thaddeus 2,3
Franklin 2
French, George W. 3
Furguson's Brigade 18
Ganges 2
Germantown 18
Gillam, Gen. 6,8,9,11,12
Giltner's Brigade 6
Grand Rapids 2,3
Grant, Gen. 15,17
Greenboro 16,18
Greenfield 7
Greenville 2,5,6,9,22,23
Greenville road 8
Griggs, Alexander H. 7
Guntersville 22
Harris's Command 21
Hemenway, Gilbert 1
Hemenway, Truman W. 1
Henry Court House 23
High Point 18,23
Hillsville 16
Hinman, Lord W 2
Holly 3
Holston River 7,10
Hood, Gen 10
House Mountain 3,22
Hume's Division 8
Insell, Andrew J. 3
Insley, Adam R. 2
Ionia 3
Irish Bottoms 9,23
Jackson, Gen. A.E. 4,22
Jacksonville 16
Johnsonville 22
Johnson's Station 9,23
Johnsonville 4
Johnston's Army 20
Jonesboro 4,22,22
Kentucky 3
Kenyon, Lt. 17
Keogh, Maj. 16
Kingsport 5,6,14,22,1,23
Kinney, William R. 1
Kirk, Col. 11,12
Knoxville 3,6,8,10,12,13,14,21
Lapeer 2
Lee's Army 20
Lee, Gen. 15,17
Leelanaw 2
Lenoir Station 22
Leonard, Charles C. 2
Lexington 3
Light, Harvey G. 2
Louisville 10
Lynchburg 15,16,17
Lyons 2,3
Madisonville 9,23
Manson's Brigade 4
Marian 3
Martinsville 17,18
McKinney's Ford 12
McMillan's Ford 7
Memphis 22
Merritt, William T. 3
Miller, Col. 9,16
Mooresburg 5
Morgan's Forces 7,8
Morristown 3,5,6,11,22,23
Moseburg 22
Mossy Creek 6,16,22
Muir 2,3
Muskegon 2
Nashville 14
New Market 5,22
Newaygo 2
Newel, Cicero 2
Newell, Maj. 8,13,14
Newport 6,9,22
Newton 23
North Carolina 16
North Carolina Troops 11
Owosso 2,3
Palmer's Brigade 16,18
Palmer, Brig. Gen. 15,18
Palmer, Gen. John B. 10
Plainfield 3
Power Spring Gap 5,22

Pritchard, Gen. 21
Provost Marshall 15
Rheatown 4,22
Richmond 15,16,17
Roanoake River 16,17
Roberts, Capt. James B. 3,6,14
Robertson, Jno. 1
Robertsville 23
Rogersville 5,6,22
Salem 18
Salisbury 16,18,19,20
Saltville 14,23
Schofeld, Gen. 5
Scott, William D. 2
Sears, Charles R. 2
Sevierville 6,22,23
Shallow Ford 18
Sheppard, Chauncey F. 3
Sherman 10,15
Sherman, B. Franklin 3
Smith, Capt. 12
Smith, Col. 22
Smith, Israel C. 2
Smith, James L. 3
Smith, Maj. 8,20
Smith, Maj. I.S. 13
Smith, Maj. Israel C. 4
South Carolina 18
Spalding, David C. 2
Spenser Carbines 19,20
St. Johns 3
Stacey 20
Standish, Capt. J. H. 7
Standish, John H. 2
Standish, Maj. 22
Statesville 23
Steedman, Gen. 10
Stevenson, Archibald 2
Stoneman Raid 22
Stoneman, Gen. 10,15,16,17,18,19,20
Strawberry Plains 3,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,14,23
Sweetwater 9,22,23
Taylor, Gen. 10
Taylor, Oliver N. 2
Tennessee River 22
Thomas, Gen 10,14,15,17
Thomas, Steven V. 2
Thorn Hill 9,23
Tillison, Gen. 10,13
Trowbridge, Col. Luther S. 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,10,15,22
Upper East Tennessee 14
Vaughn's Command 21
Virginia 5,16
Wagner, Maj. 16
Washington 20
Watauga 22
Watauga Bridge 9,23
Watauga River 4,16
Wayne Co. MI 7
Weatherwax, Capt. Ben. J. 2,4
West Tennessee 22
Wheeler, Col. 17
Wheeler, Gen. 7
White Horn 22
Wilksboro 16
William's Ford 5,22
Wood, Capt. 13
Wytherville 17
Yadkin River 16
Yerringham, William 3
Ypsilanti 2

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